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OCTOBER 3, 1871.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Eighteen members present.

Mr. THOMAS MEEHAN referred to some observations made by him last spring before the Academy in regard to the office of bud scales and involucre bracts. The general impression was that they were formed for the purpose of protecting the tender parts beneath. At that time he exhibited branches of *Fraxinus excelsior* on which some of the buds were entirely naked, and others clothed with scales in the usual manner. They could scarcely be for protection in this instance, as both were equally hardy.

He now had to exhibit an ear of corn which had been produced without the usual involucre bracts or husks, and yet was as perfect as if clothed in the usual way, showing that the husk was of not much importance as a protecting agent. An interesting point was that this ear had been formed on the end of a male panicle or tassel. It was not uncommon to find scattered grains of corn amongst male flowers, but a perfect ear like this he had never before seen. The ear was eight-rowed, and contained two hundred perfect grains. It was the variety known as "popcorn."

Dr. HOWELL announced the death of Mr. Chas. Wilson Peale.

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OCTOBER 10.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Eighteen members present.

*Remarks on the Minerals of Mount Mica.*—Prof. LEIDY remarked that the specimens of minerals presented this evening by Mr. Bement and himself were part of a collection which they had obtained at Mt. Mica, near Paris, Oxford Co., Maine. At the invitation of, and in company with, Dr. A. C. Hamlin, of Bangor, they had recently made a visit to that locality, celebrated for its beautiful tourmalines and other interesting minerals.

The position in which these occur is a ledge of coarse albitic granite upon the brow of a hill known as Mt. Mica. The granite has been quarried in the search of mineral specimens to the extent of about forty square yards, and, thus exposed, appears mainly composed of a tough, white, amorphous feldspar, without distinct cleavage, and with quartz sparingly disseminated. The white feldspar is mottled with black tourmalines, varying in size from an inch to a foot in length. These are brittle, and so firmly fixed in position as rarely to be isolated in an entire condition. In many positions the quartz and feldspar occur more intimately intermingled in the condition of graphic granite.

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Most parts of the rock are devoid of mica, but in some positions an abundance of large crystals of muscovite are mingled with the other constituents. The muscovite, of a smoky color, often contains compressed crystals of tourmaline, mostly olive-green and translucent, simple or compound, and more or less radiant.

Apparently occupying recesses in the common rock, there occur minerals of a different character. Masses of pink lepidolite, associated with laminar albite, smoky quartz, cleavable masses of amblygonite, cookeite, and variously colored tourmalines; silvery white mica containing apple-green, friable tourmalines; and usually opaque greenish or nearly white beryls.

Contiguous with these curious associations of minerals, pockets are met with filled with decomposed albite, crystals of smoky quartz, detached botryoidal masses of cookeite and tourmalines. The finest specimens of the latter are raked together with the other loose contents from the pockets. They are also found imbedded in some of the more solid associated rocks, the lepidolite, the cookeite, and the smoky quartz.

The tourmalines are remarkable, being usually partly colored of various shades of green passing into red, and partially opaque to transparent. Small crystals from half an inch to an inch and a half in length, and from half a line to the fourth of an inch in thickness, occur abundantly imbedded in the cookeite. In spongy masses of the latter, they appear closely invested with thick sheaths of the same substance. These smaller tourmalines are usually bright grass-green, and transparent, but others are nearly colorless, and green or pink at one end. Frequently they are fissured, partially decomposed, and sometimes the decomposition extends along the axis, so as to render the crystals tubular.

The tourmalines of the pink lepidolite usually occur in comparatively large crystals, firmly imbedded or even incorporated with the lepidolite and albite. These are opaque and brittle, and rarely obtained except in fractured specimens imbedded in the inclosing mineral. They are dark indigo-blue, constituting the variety indicolite, but oftener are dark olive-green with a rose-pink exterior, which at times appears gradually to pass into the condition of the surrounding lepidolite.

The largest and finest tourmalines, obtained from the loose material of the pockets previously mentioned, almost invariably occur in a fractured condition. Two pockets exposed in our presence, communicated with fissures of the surrounding rock, and the contents, as raked forth, were observed to be quite moist. During the winter their contents are probably frozen, and the freezing of water in fine fissures of the tourmalines probably accounts for their being usually found in a fractured state.

The tourmalines of the cavities occur from those of a small size up to such as measure three or four inches or more in length, and from half an inch to an inch and a half in diameter, doubly termi-

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nated, with one extremity flat, and the other three-sided, with the angles or borders truncated.

Sometimes the crystals occur opaque, dark green at one end, becoming bright grass-green and transparent at the middle, and passing into cherry or rose-red and transparent at the other end. Occasionally the green color is nearly absent, and we have an achroite with a greenish hue, passing successively into a deeper shade of green and dark green, or into pink and deep cherry-red, usually sheathed with a thin layer of greenish hue at the opposite end.

In a crystal exhibited, measuring four inches in length by three-fourths of an inch in diameter, flat at one end, and three-sided at the opposite end, the first inch is dark opaque green, the second inch is bright grass-green and transparent, the third inch is pale pink within and pale green without, and the fourth inch is cherry-red within and pale green without.

A segment exhibited of a transparent prism of achroite, an inch long and an inch and a half in diameter, has upon one end a patch of cookeite. This mineral often occurs investing the ends, fractured surfaces, and sides of the tourmalines.

Another specimen exhibited consists of a crystal an inch and a half long and ten lines thick, with a three-sided termination, deeply striated, and of a dark green color. Broken across near the base, the interior exhibits a spherical nodule of transparent achroite the third of an inch in diameter.

Some magnificent crystals of the kind indicated have been for many years in possession of Dr. Hamlin and his father, who first discovered the locality from whence they were obtained. Dr. Hamlin has more recently thoroughly explored the locality and investigated the character of its tourmalines, an account of which he proposes to give us in a future essay on the subject.

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OCTOBER 17.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Nineteen members present.

*Remarks on Fossils from Oregon.*—Prof. LEIDY directed attention to some fossils, part of a collection from Oregon, submitted to his examination by Rev. Thomas Condon, and indicated in the Proceedings of October 18th, 1870.

One of the fossils, a brain cast, or rather a cast of the interior of the cranium of a large mammal, has about the same form and size as that of the horse. The cerebral hemispheres are nearly as much convoluted as in the latter, and measure about four and a half inches in length and breadth. It may pertain to a large tapiroid animal, though I suspect it belonged to an oreodont.

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